



Acronyms and Definitions for Salmon Management

Acronym	Definition
ABC	Acceptable biological catch. See below.
acceptable biological catch	The ABC is a scientific calculation of the sustainable harvest level of a fishery and is used to set the upper limit of the annual total allowable catch. It is calculated by applying the estimated (or proxy) harvest rate that produces maximum sustainable yield to the estimated exploitable stock biomass (the portion of the fish population that can be harvested).
anadromous	Fish that spend their adult life in the sea, but swim upriver to freshwater spawning grounds in order to reproduce.
best available science	The term “best available science” comes from the second National Standard listed in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and is the informational standard mandated for decision making.
Biological Opinion (BO, BiOp)	A scientific assessment issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required by the Endangered Species Act for listed species. Determines the likelihood of an action to jeopardize the existence of a species listed under the Endangered Species Act.
biomass	The total weight of a stock of fish.
BOR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Responsible for managing water distribution in the West.
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration. BPA markets electricity from 31 federally-owned dams in the Columbia River basin.
bycatch	Fish that are captured in a fishery, but that are discarded (returned to the sea) rather than being sold, kept for personal use, or donated to a charitable organization. Bycatch plus landed catch equals the total catch or total estimated fishing mortality.
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
cfs	Cubic feet per second. A measure of running water in a stream or river.
coded-wire tag	Coded-wire tags are small pieces of stainless steel wire that are injected into the snouts of juvenile salmon and steelhead. Each tag is etched with a binary code that identifies its release group.
cohort	In a stock, a group of fish born during the same time period.
commercial fishing	Fishing in which the fish harvested, either whole or in part, are intended to enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade.
Council	Pacific Fishery Management Council
CPFV	Commercial passenger fishing vessel (charter boat)
DOC	Department of Commerce. Parent organization of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
DOI	Department of Interior
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone. See below.
EFH	Essential fish habitat. See below.
Endangered Species Act	An act of federal law that provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants. When preparing fishery management plans, councils are required to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine whether the fishing under a fishery management plan is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of an ESA-listed species or to result in harm to its critical habitat.

ESA	Endangered Species Act. See above.
escapement	The number or proportion of fish surviving (escaping from) a given fishery at the end of the fishing season and reaching the spawning grounds. Term generally used for salmon management.
essential fish habitat	Those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity.
Estimated discard mortality	Estimates of discards can be made in a variety of ways, including samples from observers and logbook records. Fish (or parts of fish) can be discarded for a variety of reasons such as having physical damage, being a non-target species for the trip, and compliance with management regulations like minimum size limits or quotas.
ESU	Evolutionarily significant unit (see below).
evolutionarily significant unit	An Evolutionarily Significant Unit or “ESU” is a distinctive group of Pacific salmon, steelhead, or sea-run cutthroat trout that is uniquely adapted to a particular area or environment and cannot be replaced.
Exclusive Economic Zone	A zone under national jurisdiction (up to 200 nautical miles wide) declared in line with the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea, within which the coastal State has the right to explore and exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, the living and non-living resources.
F	The instantaneous rate of fishing mortality. The term “fishing mortality rate” is a technical fishery science term that is often misunderstood. It refers to the rate at which animals are removed from the stock by fishing. The fishing mortality rate can be confusing because it is an “instantaneous” rate that is useful in mathematical calculations, but is not easily translated into the more easily understood concept of “percent annual removal.”
F=0	Fishing mortality equals zero (no fishing).
fathom	Used chiefly in measuring marine depth. A fathom equals six feet.
Federal Register	The Federal Register is the official daily publication for Rules, Proposed Rules, and Notices of Federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential documents. Fisheries regulations are not considered final until they are published in the Federal Register.
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Regulates hydropower operations.
Fish stock	A population of a species of fish from which catches are taken in a fishery. Use of the term “fish stock” usually implies that the particular population is more or less isolated from other stocks of the same species, and hence self-sustaining.
Fishery management council	A fisheries management body established by the Magnuson-Stevens Act to manage fishery resources in designated regions of the United States. Membership varies in size depending on the number of states involved. There are eight regional Councils, including the Pacific Council.
Fishery management plan	A plan, and its amendments, that contains measures for conserving and managing specific fisheries and fish stocks.
Fm	Fathom (6 feet)
FMA	Fishery management area
FMP	Fishery management plan. See above.
FRAM	Fishery Regulation Assessment Model. Typically used for salmon.
Habitat areas of particular concern	Subsets of essential fish habitat (see EFH) containing particularly sensitive or vulnerable habitats that serve an important ecological function, are particularly sensitive to human-induced environmental degradation, are particularly stressed by human development activities, or comprise a rare habitat type.
HAPC	Habitat areas of particular concern. See above.
Harvest guideline(s)	A numerical harvest level that is a general objective, but not a quota. Attainment of a harvest guideline does not require a management response, but it does prompt review of the fishery.
Harvest specifications	The detailed regulations that make up management measures – for example, trawl footrope size, depth limits, net mesh size, etc.
HC	Habitat Committee

Inseason adjustments	Regulatory changes that affect an ongoing fishery.
KFMC	Klamath Fishery Management Council
KMZ	Klamath management zone (ocean zone between Humbug Mountain and Horse Mountain where management emphasis is on Klamath River fall chinook)
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act	The MSFCMA, sometimes known as the “Magnuson-Stevens Act,” established the 200-mile fishery conservation zone, the regional fishery management council system, and other provisions of U.S. marine fishery law.
Maximum sustainable yield	An estimate of the largest average annual catch or yield that can be continuously taken over a long period from a stock under prevailing ecological and environmental conditions. Since MSY is a long-term average, it need not be specified annually, but may be reassessed periodically based on the best scientific information available.
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. See above.
MSY	Maximum sustainable yield. See above.
mt	Metric ton. 1000 kilos or 2,204.62 pounds. (A “short ton” is 2000 lbs.)
National Marine Fisheries Service	A division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). NMFS is responsible for conservation and management of offshore fisheries (and inland salmon). The NMFS Regional Director is a voting member of the Council.
nm	Nautical mile
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service. See above.
NMFS NWFSC	National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Fisheries Science Center
NMFS NWR	National Marine Fisheries Service Northwest Region
NMFS SWR	National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Region
NOAA	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The parent agency of National Marine Fisheries Service.
NOF	North of (Cape) Falcon, Oregon
NWFSC	Northwest Fisheries Science Center (in Seattle; a division of NMFS).
NWIFC	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
NWR	Northwest Region
OCN	Oregon coastal natural (coho)
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OPI	Oregon Production Index. See below.
Optimum yield	The amount of fish that will provide the greatest overall benefit to the Nation, particularly with respect to food production and recreational opportunities, and taking into account the protection of marine ecosystems. The OY is developed on the basis of the Maximum Sustained Yield from the fishery, taking into account relevant economic, social, and ecological factors. In the case of overfished fisheries, the OY provides for rebuilding to a level that is consistent with producing the Maximum Sustained Yield for the fishery.
Oregon production index (OPI)	A measure of the abundance of adult coho salmon produced in the Columbia River and Oregon coastal hatcheries and streams. It is the sum of ocean sport and troll catches off the Columbia River, Oregon, and California; Oregon coastal hatchery returns; and the inriver gillnet catch, Bonneville Dam counts, and hatchery returns to the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam.
Overfished	Any stock or stock complex whose size is sufficiently small that a change in management practices is required to achieve an appropriate level and rate of rebuilding. The term generally describes any stock or stock complex determined to be below its overfished/rebuilding threshold. The default proxy is generally 25% of its estimated unfished biomass; however, other scientifically valid values are also authorized.

Overfishing	Fishing at a rate or level that jeopardizes the capacity of a stock or stock complex to produce MSY on a continuing basis. More specifically, overfishing is defined as exceeding a maximum allowable fishing mortality rate. For any groundfish stock or stock complex, the maximum allowable mortality rate will be set at a level not to exceed the corresponding MSY rate (FMSY) or its proxy.
OY	Optimum yield. See above.
PacFIN	Pacific Coast Fisheries Information Network. Provides commercial fishery information for Washington, Oregon, and California. Maintained by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	The PSMFC is a non-regulatory agency that serves Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. PSMFC (headquartered in Portland) provides a communication exchange between the Pacific Fishery Management Council and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, and a mechanism for federal funding of regional fishery projects. The PSMFC provides information in the form of data services for various fisheries.
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
Processing	The preparation or packaging of fish to render it suitable for human consumption, retail sale, industrial uses, or long-term storage, including but not limited to cooking, canning, smoking, salting, drying, filleting, freezing, or rendering into meal or oil, but not heading and gutting unless additional preparation is done.
Quota	A specified numerical harvest objective, the attainment (or expected attainment) of which causes closure of the fishery for that species or species group.
RecFin	Recreational Fishery Information Network. A database managed by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission that provides recreational fishery information for Washington, Oregon, and California.
Recruits	Recruits are a group (“cohort”) of young fish that enter a fish stock in one year.
Recruits/recruitment	The estimated production of new members to a fish population as measured at a specific life stage.
Riparian area	A land area adjacent to water. Technical definition: “riparian area” means an area of land that (a) is adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland, and (b) contains vegetation that, due to the presence of water, is distinctly different from the vegetation of adjacent upland areas.
SAS	Salmon Advisory Subpanel
Scientific and Statistical Committee	An advisory committee of the PFMC made up of scientists and economists. The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires that each council maintain an SSC to assist in gathering and analyzing statistical, biological, ecological, economic, social, and other scientific information that is relevant to the management of Council fisheries.
Secretary	U.S. Secretary of Commerce
SOC	Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary has responsibility for reviewing, approving, and implementing a fishery management plan.
SONCC	Southern Oregon Northern California coastal coho (an evolutionarily significant unit)
SSC	Scientific and Statistical Committee. See above.
Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation	A SAFE document is a document prepared by the Council that provides a summary of the most recent biological condition of species in the fishery management unit, and the social and economic condition of the recreational and commercial fishing industries, including the fish processing sector. It summarizes, on a periodic basis, the best available information concerning the past, present, and possible future condition of the stocks and fisheries managed in the FMP.
STT	Salmon Technical Team
SWFSC	Southwest Fisheries Science Center (NMFS)
TAC	Total allowable catch. See below.
Total allowable catch	The total regulated catch from a stock in a given time period, usually a year. (NMFS)
Total catch OY	Total catch optimum yield. The landed catch plus discard mortality.
WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. A representative of WDFW sits on the Council.